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Empowered to settle claims against collectors, etc.

37. The Comptroller is authorized and empowered to adjust and settle the claims of the State against all collectors, sheriffs, clerks of courts, registers of wills and other collectors or receivers of public moneys and their sureties, and against corporations and individuals who may be indebted to the State in all cases where said claims accrued prior to and including the year 1904, and whether said claims be in the form of judgment or otherwise; and for the purpose of closing all such cases the Comptroller is fully authorized to compromise the same by abating the interest that has accrued, or any portion thereof, or any part of the principal debt, in his discretion, so as to best subserve the interest of the State, and shall grant discharge to said parties and their sureties upon the payment into the treasury of the amount required by him to be paid in settlement as aforesaid; the Comptroller shall be satisfied, after thorough examinations into the claims, that the same could not be collected by the State by legal process; and further, that the Governor and Treasurer for the time being shall each approve, in writing, any such abatement before the same shall be effected; and provided, further, that no discharge or acquittance under this section shall be effective unless the party or parties to be benefited shall first pay the attorneys who shall have the case in hand the legal fees and all fees of clerks and sheriffs.

Proviso.

SEC. 2. And be it enacted, That this Act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved April 3, 1906.

## CHAPTER 352.

AN ACT to refund to Helen A. W. Cowen and Frederick Dallam a certain sum of money erroneously paid into the State Treasury.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Comptroller of the Treasury be and he is hereby authorized and directed to issue his warrant upon the Treasurer of this State in favor of Helen A. W. Cowen and Frederick Dallam for the sum of thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents (\$37.50) each, being the amount of State tax upon commissions erroneously paid by each, the said Helen

Warrant to be